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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,680	09/26/2003	John S. Ng	PHA 4200.1 (3090 / 5A)	9809

321 7590 09/22/2004

SENNIGER POWERS LEAVITT AND ROEDEL  
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE  
16TH FLOOR  
ST LOUIS, MO 63102

EXAMINER

BADIO, BARBARA P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/672,680	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D.	<b>Art Unit</b> 1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 66-104 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 66-83 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 84-99 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 100-104 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/07/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### **First Office Action on the Merits**

#### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group V and the species of claim 87 in the reply filed on August 13, 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that all of the claims are directed to intermediates in the production of eplerenone or its derivatives and that many of these intermediates share distinctive structural features. Applicant requested the claims be regrouped as outlined in the reply. The examiner has decided in the present application to combine Groups VI and VII with applicant's elected Group V for examination.
2. Based on the combination of Groups V, VI and VII as discussed above in #1, claims 84-104 will be examined in accordance with MPEP § 803.02. Therefore, claims 66-83 stand withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 100-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Leusen (EP 123,734).

Van Leusen teaches the preparation of 17-(isocyano-sulfonylmethylene)- and 17-(formamido-sulfonylmethylene)-steroids from the corresponding 17-oxo-steroid, for example, 3-methoxy-11 $\alpha$ -hydroxyandrosta-3,5-dien-17-one (see the entire article, especially, page 7, lines 29-38; page 18, Example 13). The compound taught by the reference is encompassed by the instant claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 100-102 and 104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leusen (EP 123,734).

Van Leusen teaches the preparation of 17-(isocyano-sulfonylmethylene)- and 17-(formamido-sulfonylmethylene)-steroids from the corresponding 17-oxo-steroid, for example, 3-methoxy-11 $\alpha$ -hydroxyandrosta-3,5-dien-17-one (see the entire article, especially, page 7, lines 29-38; page 18, Example 13).

The instant claims differ from the reference by reciting compounds not exemplified by the reference. However, Van Leusen teaches the 3-position of the

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steroid derivative can be substituted by an alkoxy group such as methoxy or ethoxy groups (see page 3, lines 24-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to select any of the species of the genus taught by the reference, including that of the instant claims, because an ordinary artisan would have the reasonable expectation that any of the species of the genus would have similar properties and, thus, the same use as the genus as a whole.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 84-99 are allowed.

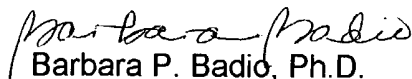
***Telephone Inquiry***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-0609. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary L. Kunz can be reached on 571-272-0887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1616

BB  
September 17, 2004